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Such unpretentious records must have a great value in clearing the way for the better knowledge of such unfamiliar lands as those which the author has penetrated. This value is by no means temporary, a record of the things which have interested a traveler may contain matter of much permanent importance. This is strikingly illustrated in this work. In a kampong of Dyak headhunters in Borneo Mr. Walker amused a group of young and old by showing them pictures in an illustrated paper. The manner in which they looked at the pictures, upside down, attracted his attention enough for a brief note.

It happens that this involves a matter concerning which the works on psychology and optics are wholly silent. So far as diligent search warrants the statement, there are but four other references to this obscure but interesting phenomenon.

W. C.

EUROPE

Geologischer Führer durch Dalmatien. Von Dr. Richard Schubert. xxiii and 176 pp., 18 text illustrations and a geological sketch map. Gebrüder Borntraeger, Berlin, 1909. M. 5.60.

This little book is No. 14 in the series of geological guides which the Borntraeger Brothers are publishing for the benefit of the traveling public. Anyone who realizes the influence of geology upon the shaping not only of land forms but also of human activities can see what new sources of interest such a guide as this may open to him. The book shows what may be observed, geologically, on excursions from various starting points in Dalmatia; and its helpfulness should be a source of pleasure even to the layman.

Central Italy and Rome. Handbook for Travellers. By Karl Baedeker. Fifteenth revised edition. lxxxii and 525 pp., 19 maps, 55 plans and views and the Arms of the Popes since 1417. Karl Baedeker, Leipzig, 1909. M. 7.50.

This standard guide book, thoroughly brought up to date, is likely to be useful to an unusually large number of tourists during the coming fifteen months. In October, 1911, a week will be given in Rome to the commemoration of the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy. Fall and winter travel in Italy is increasing every year and is expected to be unusually large next year. In this edition of the Handbook, 364 pp. are given to Rome; and among the many maps, those of Elba, and the environs and plans of Elba, Siena, Montepulciano, San Gimignano and Urbino appear for the first time.

Life in the Orient. By K. H. Basmajian. Third, revised edition. 277 pp., and many illustrations. American Tract Society, New York, 1910. \$1 net.

In this edition, new chapters show the present conditions in Turkey, and the pictures, also, are new. This is an authoritative work by a native Turk, who was converted to Christianity in his boyhood, has been many years in the missionary service and writes of Oriental matters as none but a native can do. The book is replete with information on all phases of Turkish life.

GENERAL

Military Map Reading. By Captain C. O. Sherrill, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A. 46 pp., 22 figures and map of Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Fort Leavenworth, 1909. 50c.

This manual is used in the U. S. A. Service Schools at Fort Leavenworth

and has been distributed by the War Department to the officers of the organized militia, 9,000 copies being printed in the first edition. It is an elementary work on the reading and construction of maps, and is fully adequate for the purposes designed. It explains and illustrates scales, contours, hachures, and other elements of map-making, gives map problems, and treats of the determination of directions, orientation of maps, determination of the true meridian, etc. While the book is designed for military classes, most of it will be very helpful to all who may desire to cultivate the reading and understanding of maps.

The Story of the American Merchant Marine. By John R. Spears. 340 pp. and 15 illustrations. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1910. \$1.50.

For over twenty years, Mr. Spears has been regarded as an authority on American sea enterprises. The books from his pen are based upon long study of the topics he treats. His facts are always clearly presented, his narrative is interesting and he spares no pains to attain accuracy. In the present volume, he tells the story of our merchant marine from its beginnings, through all the phases of its history and of the depression that has marked this feature of our activities since the civil war.

Physical History of the Earth in Outline. By James B. Babbitt. vi and 229 pp., and Appendix. Sherman, French & Company, Boston, 1909. \$1.40.

The title of the book is somewhat misleading. What the author wants to demonstrate is not so much the history of the earth in general as his particular theories on the causes and extent of the glacial period, to which the rest forms merely an introduction. His argumentation culminates in a refutation of the hypotheses of a "geologic" or "cosmic" winter and the existence of a polar ice cap as causes of the glacial period, and he substitutes for them a transverse rotation of the earth which would effectuate changes in the obliquity of the earth's axis and, hence, changes in the location of the Arctic zone and climate. As it appears, from ancient as well as most accurate modern observations, that within the last thirty centuries the poles have turned or moved in a direction at right angles to the axis of the diurnal rotation, this movement may be supposed to be continuous and, if so, cycles of such a rotation would correspond to climatic cycles during which ice ages would alternate at the poles and the equator and migrate, as it were, all around the earth between these two.

In a book like this, however, which is supposed by its author to be ranked as a scientific publication, that author should not play hide-and-seek with his readers as he does here. Not only does the title-page observe the strictest discretion as to the profession, position, or general scientific qualifications of the author, but there is not even a preface to introduce him and his work to us, nor a bibliography by means of which we might assign him his place in the long line of workers on these problems, nor a subject index that might enable us to cross-examine his theories. These omissions are especially regrettable, not only because they will shake the faith of many a reader in the scientific earnestness of the author, but even more because his transverse rotation is a very near relative of another hypothesis long established by Professor Simroth of Leipzig, namely, the "Pendulation Theory," and the principal interest and merit of the book lies in the points of resemblance and divergence that it con-